Absorption of employees of GTB in Oriental Bank of Commerce

*479. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the employees of erstwhile Global Trust Bank (GTB) who have since been absorbed in Oriential Bank of Commerce are entitled to pensionary benefits;

(b) whether it is a fact that other employees of OBC who were appointed by the said Bank even after the merger of GTB with Oriental Bank of Commerce are entitled to pensionary benefits; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the specific reasons for the exclusion of erstwhile employment of GTB from pensionary benefits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The Pension Scheme of lieu of Contributory Provident Fund (CPF) was introduced in the Nationalized Banks including Oriential Bank of Commerce (OBC) *w.e.f.* 29.9.1995. As per Regulation 3 (4) of the Oriental Bank of Commerce (Employees) Pension Regulations, 1995, these Regulations apply to the employees who joined the service of the Bank on or after the notified date. As per the extant Regulations, the employees of erstwhile Golbal Trust Bank (GTB) are thus not covered for pension under Pension Regulations, but keeping in view the Scheme of Amalgamation of GTB with OBC, the matter is being considered in consultation with Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Ministry of Law.

Monetary measures to check inflation

*480. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has taken certain monetary measures to check the prevailing inflation in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such measures taken after Budget this year; and

(c) whether these measures have been effective in controlling inflationary trend in the markets; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a number of measures to anchor inflationary exceptions. With the objective of draining out excess liquidity and improving the efficacy of interest rate signals, RBI, on March 30, 2007 announced a hike in the fixed repo rate under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 7.75 per cent effective March 31, 2007. The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was increased 25 basis points on March 3, 2007. The CRR was further increased by 50 basis points in two stages of 25 basis points each, effective from fortnights beginning April 14 and April 28 2007 to reach 6.5 per cent. To mop up excess liquidity, the ceiling for the outstanding under Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) for the year 2007-08 was revised from Rs. 80,000 crore to Rs. 95,000 crore on April 24, 2007 and further to Rs. 1,10,000 crore effective April 27, 2007.

(c) Factors affecting inflation emanate from demand and supply sides. Monetary policy has a cumulative and lagged effect on aggregate demand. Inflation, measured by variations in the wholesale price index (WPI) on a year-on-year basis, increased from 4.1 per cent at end-march 2006 to an intra-year peak of 6.7 per cent in end-January 2007 and remained firm in the range of 6.0—6.6 per cent in the succeeding weeks before moderating to 5.7 per cent on march 31, 2007. As on April 21, 2007 inflation rate was 5.8 per cent on a year-on-year basis.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Modernization of Non-Metro Airports

3502. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to modernize the clusters of non-metro airports through private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the names of the airports which are proposed to be modernized; and

(c) what are the names of companies which have been short-listed for this purpose, including the details of the bids offered by each?